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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 9 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statements issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on 8 and 9 August 2008 regarding the situation in Georgia (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Permanent Representative

08-45755 (E) 120808

Annex I to the identical letters dated 9 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

8 August 2008

As a result of massive bombings of Tskhinvali by Russian air force and artillery on 8 August 2008, the town was almost completely destroyed. However, the most tragic fact is that the bombing was undertaken during the three-hour ceasefire moratorium announced by the Georgian Government. Due to this circumstance, civilians were not able to make use of the safe corridor provided by the Georgian side and thus escape the zone of military actions. This situation has driven the Tskhinvali region to the edge of a humanitarian catastrophe. In the current situation, the Georgian side is making the utmost efforts to ease the plight of the civilians.

It should be mentioned that against the background of the Olympic Games in Beijing and the urging by the United Nations General Assembly to sustain the Olympic peace, the barbaric acts on behalf of Russia are a cause of particular concern.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia urges the international community to condemn the open aggression of the Russian Federation against Georgia and to marshal all its efforts towards the restoration of peace and security in the region.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 9 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

9 August 2008

On 9 August 2008 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation released another cynical statement, in which it accused the Government of Ukraine of facilitating ethnic cleansing in the Tskhinvali region.

It is surprising that the Russian Federation speaks with other States about morality when the regular army of Russia carries out full-scale military actions against sovereign Georgia and bombs civilian populations with all means available throughout the entire territory of Georgia.

During all these years the Russian Federation intensively armed the criminal regime of Tskhinvali, which held hostage the population residing in the conflict zone. The militarization of the region served only one purpose: to conduct full-scale open aggression against Georgia under the cover of a peacekeeping operation.

What Russia is doing currently in Georgia represents a logical continuation of the traditions of fascist and Soviet regimes.